

Hypertension and Smoking. The article by (107) Mulcahy does not contain any information on hypertension. There are 77 women reported to have coronary heart disease and their smoking habits were matched with statistics of the general female population. The relevant paragraph and Table are as follows:

Table 2 illustrates the smoking experience of the 77 female patients with classical CHD under 60 years who were seen by us. The numbers are small and further study is clearly needed, but already we can identify a significant deficiency of non-smokers and ex-smokers among our female patients compared

Table 2 Ratio of smokers to non-smokers in 77 female patients under 60 years with CHD compared to estimated ratio in general female population for age group 35 to 59 in 1961

Category	Present enquiry		Female population* (age group 35-59)	
	No. of patients	%	No. of subjects	%
Smokers	49	64	261	45.6
Ex-smokers	1	1	52	9.1
Nonsmokers	27	35	259	45.3
Total	77	100	572	100

Significant at the 1% level

*Source: "Statistics of Smoking in the Irish Republic," Research Services, Limited, Dublin, 1962

to the general female population. Also, our 77 patients are on average more than 2½ times heavier smokers than the general Irish female population of the same age group.

Our finding of a significant association between cigarette smoking and CHD in women confirms the findings of M. F. Oliver of Edinburgh¹ who noted an excess of smokers and a deficiency of nonsmokers and ex-smokers among 50 women less than 45 years of age with cardiac infarction. He found little or no connection between cigarette smoking and angina pectoris among young women. Our 23 females with angina pectoris had a lighter smoking experience than the 54 with cardiac infarction or acute coronary insufficiency, but nevertheless they had a heavier experience than the general population.

1005050645